

Portland Metals Timeline

Feb. 22-26:

- OHA continues to lead an interagency unified command and incidence command structure it initiated Feb. 12 with the Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD) and DEQ, including a joint information center (JIC) involving public information officers from all three agencies as well as the EPA and the Portland Mayor's Office.
- OHA continues to coordinate a hotline, using 211 Info, to answer questions from people and health care providers.
- OHA is working on a funding plan to cover the cost of urine cadmium testing for current residents of the area of the Southeast and North Portland "hot zones" whose insurance does not cover it; OHA is recommending patients discuss the need and potential benefits and limitations of testing with their physicians.
- OHA is informing laboratories about a rule OHA implemented Feb. 18 requiring reporting of all positive urine tests for cadmium in Oregon. Under the plan, local public health officials would follow up on such reports to collect information from patients on such things as how long the person lived in that area, occupation, work place, school attendance, and other potential sources of cadmium exposure. With positive tests reported over the ensuing months, OHA would analyze whether expansion of the testing is appropriate.
- OHA has begun a cancer incidence evaluation in the area of North Portland around Uroboros Glass that was identified in US Forest Service maps as having elevated environmental levels of cadmium and arsenic. The maps are being used to identify the census tracts to target for an evaluation of relevant cancer rates.

Mid-March:

- OHA will report summary data on urine cadmium test results to the public. Individual test results reported to OHA for public health purposes are confidential under Oregon law.
- OHA will complete its North Portland cancer incidence evaluation and report the results to the public.

March

- OHA will report the results of any additional cancer incidence evaluations to the public as they become available.